



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services
8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 1/4/22

PHONE: 225-620-5115
ashley.rodrigue@la.gov

Man Dies in West Monroe House Fire

OUACHITA PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a late-night house fire in West Monroe that claimed the life of a male resident and his dog. This is the first fire fatality of 2022.

Around 11:15 p.m. on January 2, the Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to a report of a residential fire located in the 100 block of Highway 3033. Firefighters learned that the sole occupant of the home had escaped, but re-entered the home in an attempt to save his pet dog and never came back out. Firefighters later located the man's body in the home's living room. The remains of his pet dog were found in a bedroom.

While official identification is pending, the victim is believed to be the 69-year-old tenant of the home.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies have determined the fire originated on the exterior of the home in the area of the carport. While the official cause of this fire remains undetermined at this time, SFM investigators are unable to rule out the possibility of electrical malfunction.

Deputies were unable to locate working smoke alarms in the home. However, even with the presence of working smoke alarms to alert occupants to a fire danger, the SFM wants to stress the importance of getting out of a burning structure as fast as possible, then staying out.

"The goal is first to do whatever you can to prevent fire," said State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning, "But if you experience fire, the priority is getting out safely. Possessions can be purchased again. Life cannot."

The SFM would like to stress the importance of having working smoke alarms. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operations Save-A-Life can help. The program partners with local fire departments to install smoke alarms for free. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, visit our website at lasfm.org.

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